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The Nebraska Bird Review

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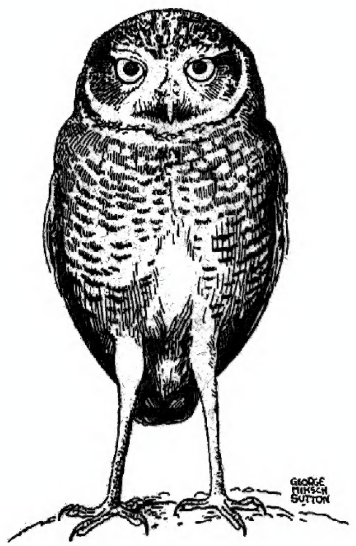
Volume 87 September 2019 Number 3



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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, June-July 2019

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INTRODUCTION

There was a lot to ponder this summer, including several notable breeding records of waterbirds, including the 3rd for Canvasback and an "unprecedented" breeding season for Eared Grebe in the Rainwater Basin. Intriguing summer occurrences that might presage or indicate nesting were large numbers of Redhead and Ring-necked Duck in larger wetlands, the 3rd Jun record of Dusky Flycatcher, first Jun record of Baird's Sparrow, 3rd summer record of Ash-throated Flycatcher, and a Sage Thrasher in Jun in Kimball County. Additional breeding records of interest were the 10 Peregrine Falcons fledged at three Omaha sites, possible nesting by Mississippi Kites in Lincoln, and the 3rd year of reported breeding by Pygmy Nuthatch at NNF Bessey, Thomas County.

Also of interest were several well-documented reports from the Panhandle of subspecies rare in Nebraska: Hairy Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrush, and Spotted Towhee.

Unexpected westerly sightings were Northern Bobwhites away from the North Platte River Valley in Scotts Bluff County, 7th spring Green Heron in the Panhandle, and 2nd Carolina Wren for the Panhandle.

Most notable rarity was a young male Anna's Hummingbird photographed in Jun in Scotts Bluff County; there are very few reports of this species Jun-Jul anywhere east of the Rockies. Also in Scotts Bluff County there were no fewer than six Black-chinned Hummingbirds reported, bringing the state total to 13. Interesting was a photographed putative hybrid Tufted x Ring-necked Duck in Cherry County, a leucistic, mostly white, Eared Grebe in the Rainwater Basin, and the 4th summer record of Greater Scaup.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak Lake SRA, *Lancaster*
CLNWR: Crescent Lake NWR, *Garden*
CSP: Chadron SP, *Dawes*
FF: Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*
HL: Holmes Lake, Lincoln, *Lancaster*
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha and Richardson Cos
LM: Lake McConaughy, *Keith*
LO: Lake Ogallala, *Keith*
m.ob.: multiple observers
NGPC: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
NLB: North Lakes Basin WMA, *Seward*
NM: National Monument
NNF Bessey: Nebraska National Forest, *Thomas*

NNF McKelvie: Nebraska National Forest, *Cherry*
NVP: Niobrara Valley Preserve, *Brown* and *Keya Paha*
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
OR: Oliver Reservoir SRA, *Kimball*
PSP: Ponca SP, *Dixon*
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including several south-central and southeastern playa basins
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, *Lancaster*
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoons
SNWR: Stateline Island, North Platte NWR, *Scotts Bluff*
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WHNC: Wildcat Hills Nature Center, *Scotts Bluff*
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Following the single report for spring, the only summer season report was of a "wild bird" at Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha 2 Jun (LAD).

Snow Goose: Routine reports.

Ross's Goose: None were reported of this rare summer visitor central and east.

Greater White-fronted Goose: There were no documented reports of this rare summer visitor central and east.

Cackling Goose: A single in *Scotts Bluff* 1 Jun (KD) was tardy.

Canada Goose: Routine reports.

Trumpeter Swan: At the southernmost breeding site, Ravenna, *Buffalo,* only one adult was present this summer and no young were raised (WF).

Wood Duck: Most Wood Ducks breed at one year of age, but late nesting in a prior year may delay maturity and result in a skipped breeding season; this scenario may account for large numbers of apparent non-breeders in Jun, such as the 153 at Verdel, *Knox* 2 Jun (DTo). Peak migration is in late Mar and young-of-the year achieve flight in Nebraska beginning in early or mid-Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Cinnamon Teal: Routine reports.

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Gadwall: A hen with a brood of 12 was in *Scotts Bluff* 20 Jul (KD), a rather late date for dependent young.

American Wigeon: One in *Lancaster* 11 Jun (JGJ) was tardy; breeding is not expected there. Also tardy, but at possible but rarely reported breeding locations were singles in *Seward* 3 Jul (LE) and *Hamilton* 17 Jun (JGJ); these are only the 12th and 13th summer (16 Jun-22 Jul) reports in the RWB.

Mallard: The 159 at HL 29 Jul (LE) were likely molt migrants. A female flushed from a nest with eight eggs at Straightwater WMA, *Seward* 26 Jul (LE) was a day short of the record late egg date.

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

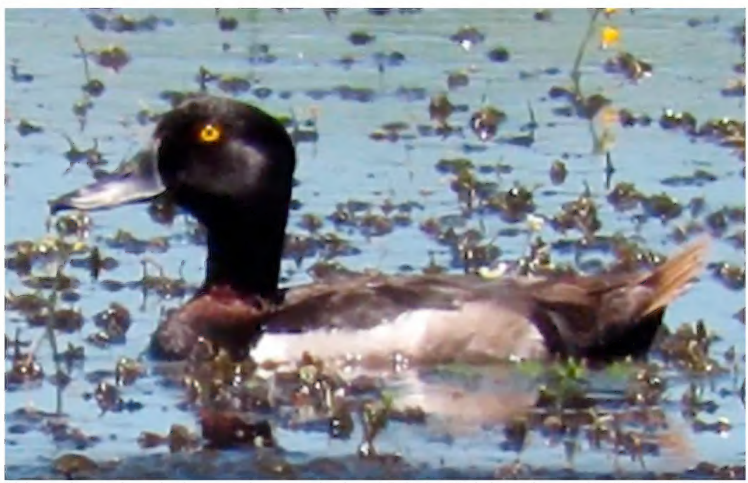
This Canvasback brood, a rare Nebraska breeding record, was photographed 30 July 2019 in Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, *Cherry*, by Gregory Wright.

Canvasback: Even in the core western Sandhills summer range there are few records of breeding, and so exciting was a brood at NNF McKelvie 30 Jul (GWr fide JGJ; photo), only the third documented breeding record since 1958 for the state. Numbers reported away from the breeding range or adjacent counties were "unprecedented" (JGJ). "Almost unheard of in the RWB in summer" were five pairs in *Clay* 19 Jun (JGJ) with singles there 21 Jun and 11 Jul (JGJ), 1-2 at a *Butler* wetland 2 and 19 Jun (LE), four males and a female in *Fillmore* 13 Jun (JGJ), and one in *Buffalo* 4 Jun (CCh). One was in *Wheeler*

13 Jun (JTh). These were likely one-year-old immature non-breeders resulting from late broods in 2018 and delayed sexual maturity (see **Redhead**, below).

Redhead: Unusually high numbers congregated in the RWB this summer, peaking in late Jul; an amazing tally was the 475 in *Fillmore*, *Clay*, and *York* 24 Jul (SBr, JGJ). No nesting activity was detected and it was thought these birds were one-year-old immature non-breeders (Mark Vrtiska, pers. comm.; Jorgensen https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/**the-summer-of-redheads**/) possibly resulting from late broods in 2018 and delayed sexual maturity. Additional excellent counts were the 112 in *Adams* 28 Jul (LE) and 180 at Harvard WPA, *Clay* on 12 Jul, not included in the 24 Jul total (JGJ, SBr). Overall in the RWB for the Jun-Jul period, about 725 Redheads were reported (m. ob.).

Ring-necked Duck: Breeding is unknown in Nebraska and summer (9 Jun-6 Sep) records are less than annual. This year, however, there was a significant influx, presumably analogous to those for Canvasback and Redhead. These birds are also likely to be one-year-old non-breeders resulting from late broods the prior year and delayed sexual maturity. There were four reports of 12 birds in northeastern *Cherry* (m. ob.) and five reports of 18 birds in the RWB (m. ob.). Away from these areas, two were at Scottsbluff SL, *Scotts Bluff* 16 Jun (SMl, VRe), only the third Panhandle summer record, and one was in *Brown* 28 Jun (JNi).



This male *Aythya* duck was photographed at NNF McKelvie, *Cherry,* 10 Jul 2019 by Paul Timm. It is most likely an intergrade of Ring-necked Duck and Tufted Duck based on several expert opinions.

Tufted Duck x Ring-necked Duck: A male photographed at NNF McKelvie 10 Jul (PTi) caused extensive discussion as to its identity. A case was made for it being a Tufted Duck, potentially Nebraska's second, but the possibility of it

being a hybrid or intergrade involving Ring-necked Duck and Tufted Duck emerged as the most likely identification based on opinions from England and the USA East Coast (fide MB, CNK).

Greater Scaup: Only the 4th Jun-Sep record was a female at Scottsbluff SL, *Scotts Bluff* 16 Jun (SMl, VRe; photo).

Lesser Scaup: Two in *Burt* 19 Jun (PTi) were tardy. Less than annual in mid-summer (20 Jun-8 Sep), two were in *Jefferson* 30 Jun (SPa) and two were in *York* 11 Jul (LE).

Common Goldeneye: Only the 13th summer (9 Jun-11 Sep) record was of one at LO 26 Jun (JGJ).

Hooded Merganser: Routine reports.

Common Merganser: Summer sightings are expected in the NVP area in *Brown,* where 1-3, including at least one adult male, were reported 4-7 Jun (m. ob.); a female was flushed from a hollow tree there 4 Jun (GSt) but no nesting evidence was found (WM). A group of seven was in *Burt* 19 Jun (PTi); there are few summer records.

Ruddy Duck: Good numbers summered statewide; due to abundant water, many were presumably immature non breeders. The only breeding evidence provided was a brood in *Logan* 28 Jul (BEd photo).

Northern Bobwhite: Although a rare resident in the North Platte River Valley in *Scotts Bluff*, a veteran observer (AK) living near the Wildcat Hills reported: "In almost 50 years of living in the middle of a native grass pasture, it is the first [bobwhite] I've seen or heard." At least one was seen or heard there daily 18-27 Jul, possibly part of a covey of 6-8 that had been less than a mile away for a few months according to a neighbor (AK).

Chukar: A release in northern *Rock* "a few years ago" may have been the source of two seen four miles north of Bassett, *Rock* 9 Jun 2019 (CH). One in east Lincoln, *Lancaster* 9 Jun was presumably a survivor from an Apr release there (fide WRS).

Gray Partridge: This species continues at a low point in its population cycle; the only report was of two on 21 Jun a few miles east of Creighton, *Knox (*MB).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Routine reports.

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Horned Grebe: None were reported; last expected spring migration dates are 4-5 Jun.

Eared Grebe: A striking leucistic individual was at Harvard WPA, *Clay* 17 Jun (JGJ, photo eBird.org). (See also photo in NBR Vol. 87 No. 1 p. 19.) This summer was an "unprecedented nesting season" for this species in the RWB (JGJ); nesting attempts at Sinninger WPA, *York* and Harvard WPA, *Clay* were unsuccessful, but three nests were at Greenhead WMA and another at a private wetland, all in *Clay* (JGJ). Young were not reported until 12 Jul, when several broods were at Mallard Haven WPA, *Fillmore* (JGJ, photo eBird.org).

Western Grebe: Routine reports.

Clark's Grebe: Three of the four reports of this rare summer resident were, as expected, from LM (JGJ, WWe, BWh) and the fourth was a little east of the expected range southwest of NNF McKelvie, *Cherry* (SBr).

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Routine reports.

White-winged Dove: Despite reports from about 11 locations and several of 2+ birds, no definite nesting evidence was found. Most likely, however, was at a *Saunders* location where breeding has occurred previously; on 16 Jul five appeared, where earlier in the summer best tally had been three (JHo).

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Documented breeding records are scarce; adults were feeding a begging fledgling in *Polk* 26 Jul (MN). Numbers were high during NGPC surveys at ICSP; a total of 24 were counted at different locations 2 Jun (SMa, WRS), and tallies of 11-14 were made 1-15 Jun (SMa, WRS, JGJ).

Black-billed Cuckoo: About on par in recent years, there were only five reports, four from eastern locations: singles in *Burt* (JJ) and *Dakota* (BFH) on 4 Jun, *Washington* 11 Jul (CPr), and *Dixon* 27 Jul (JJ), but unexpected was one in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 13 Jun (SMl, VRe; photo), where it is less than annual in occurrence.

Common Nighthawk: As with Yellow-billed Cuckoo, reports of breeding are scarce; a nest with two eggs was found 22 Jun in *Rock* (K&JC).

Common Poorwill: Routine reports.

Chuck-will's-widow: The northernmost locations for the state are Bohemia Prairie WMA and the South Shore Campground area, both in *Knox*; one was recorded at South Shore 22 Jul (MB). An excellent tally made carefully to avoid duplication was the 12 at five stops around Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 7 Jun (SMa).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Routine reports.

Chimney Swift: There were five reports from Kimball, *Kimball* during the season (SMl, VRe, CRu, EJa) indicating consolidation there.

White-throated Swift: The 27 at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* 1 Jun and 29 Jul (KD) were good counts.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: An early fledgling was in *Lancaster* 6 Jul (BAr). One in *Buffalo* 14 Jun (KHa) was probably a tardy migrant, but one in *Fillmore* 28 Jun (SPa) raised the possibility of nesting there.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Following a single record in spring, the floodgates opened with no fewer than six records of a male at the Croft feeders near the Wildcat Hills, *Scotts Bluff* 19 Jun (CCf, photo), which was different from the male there 13 May. These six records almost doubled the state's total from seven to 13, all since 2012. The Smith feeders a bit farther north in *Scotts Bluff* hosted at least three different birds, a territorial male 20-24 Jun, a female 20 Jun, and an immature male 25 Jun (MS, KD, photos). At a Gering, *Scotts Bluff* residence, a male was present 22 Jun (RSt, photo), and one in extreme southeastern *Dawes* 1 Jul (JWh, photo) was the northernmost record to date.

Anna's Hummingbird: An apparent immature male, based on its red incoming gorget and red flecks in its crown, was at the Smith feeders, *Scotts Bluff* 21 Jun (MS, photos). This is Nebraska's third record, first in spring/summer, and only the second for Jun east of the Rockies for South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, and Colorado.

This immature male Anna's Hummingbird, Nebraska's third, was in a *Scotts Bluff* yard on 21 June, photographed by Marie Smith.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: One appeared at the Smith feeders, *Scotts Bluff* 1 Jun (MS, KD), only the 8th spring record, all since 2014. There were four reports of expected fall migrants, all in Scotts *Bluff* 24-30 Jul (RMi, KD, SMl), but one at the Smith feeders 22 Jun (MS, KD) and another at the Croft feeders, *Scotts Bluff* 24 Jun (CCf, photo) were a bit more puzzling. These two, however, along with five previous late Jun records 21-29 Jun, suggest fall migration begins in the Panhandle in late Jun rather than early Jul (3-8 Jul are the current expected early fall dates).

Rufous Hummingbird: Interestingly, as in Broad-tailed Hummingbird, there was a late Jun report of a male, 27 Jun, at the Croft feeders (CCf, photo). There are two previous late Jun records, both of males, 23 and 29 Jun. Best count was the three at the Croft feeders 27 Jul (JNi).

Calliope Hummingbird: One at the Croft feeders 6 Jul (CCf, photo) was early.

Virginia Rail: At unexpected locations for regular breeding in the south and east were two at Burchard Lake SRA, *Pawnee* 14 Jun (SQ) and one in *Dakota* 24 Jul (BFH), the latter possibly an early migrant.

Sora: Routine reports.

Common Gallinule: Given the abundant water conditions, there was surprisingly only one report, that of one at Troester WPA, *Hamilton* 17 Jun (JGJ).

American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: There were no reports of successful breeding, although an adult was at a previously known breeding site at Hutton Ranch Sanctuary, *Rock* 13-14 Jun (JSc). The only other summer reports were from likely breeding areas farther south: two were at Twin Lakes WMA, *Rock* 13 Jun (SBr) and two were at the north end of Calamus Reservoir, *Loup* 19 Jul (KS).

Black-necked Stilt: The 23 at Lakeside, *Sheridan* 20 Jul (KD) was a good count.

American Avocet: Two nests, one with three eggs, on private property approximately a mile south of Harvard WPA, *Clay* on 19 Jun may have been unsuccessful; the wetland had dried up by 24 Jul with no avocets present (JGJ, SKr). Two were near Shickley, *Fillmore* 15 Jun (TDo).

Black-bellied Plover: One in *Knox* 2 Jun (DTo) was tardy.

American Golden-Plover: The only report was of one in alternate plumage with an apparent broken wing in *Seward* 19 Jun (LE).

Killdeer: The 331 in southwestern *Butler* 11 Jul (LE) was a good count.

Semipalmated Plover: Routine reports.

Piping Plover: Routine reports.

Mountain Plover: The only report was of one in *Kimball* 5 Jul (SMa), an expected location.

Snowy Plover: The only report was of a tardy single in *Buffalo* 1 Jun (BEd, photo).

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Long-billed Curlew: Routine reports.

Hudsonian Godwit: None were reported during the period; expected last spring dates are 5-6 Jun.

Marbled Godwit: One in *Clay* 19 Jun was an early fall migrant (JGJ); fall movement begins in mid-Jun. Less than annual in fall in the east, there were a surprising three reports: one in *Dakota* 19-24 Jul (BFH), two at BOL 20 Jul (SKr, MW), and one in *Butler* 26 Jul (LE).

Stilt Sandpiper: One at NLB 3 Jul (LE) was early.

Sanderling: The only reports were of 1-3 in *Dakota* 24-31 Jul (BFH, PR).

Dunlin: None were reported during the period; expected last spring dates are 9-11 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Least Sandpiper: There is only about a two-week gap between spring and fall migration; expected dates for this gap are 11-21 Jun. Only the 6th and 7th such records were of two in *Fillmore* 13 Jun (JGJ) and one in Clay 15 Jun (TDo).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: None were reported during the period: expected first fall dates are in mid-Jul.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Western Sandpiper: None were reported during the period: expected first fall dates are in early Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Routine reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Three at Pintail WMA, *Hamilton* 12 Jul (SBr, JGJ) were early. No spring migrants were reported during the period; expected last spring dates are 8-13 Jun.

American Woodcock: None were reported of this uncommon breeder east, rare central.

Wilson's Snipe: A winnowing bird in *Dakota* 25 Jul (PR) was suggestive of territorial behavior. Singles at Ayr Lake, *Adams* 19 Jun (JGJ) and at Hultine WPA, *Clay* 2 Jul (CCh) were at locations where breeding may occur.

Spotted Sandpiper: A dependent juvenile was being protected by a parent near Fremont, *Dodge* on the late date 24 Jul (CCr, photo).

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: As with other shorebirds mentioned above, this species only has a very small "gap" between presumed spring and fall migrants, in this case 8-15 Jun. Within this short window there are only seven records, including one this summer: a single in *Rock* 13 Jun (JSc).

Willet: A rather late date for dependent young was 20 Jul near Ellsworth, *Sheridan* (KD).

Greater Yellowlegs: A surprise were the six near Hemingford, *Box Butte* 19 Jun (BKr), only the 19th mid-Jun (6-21 Jun) record.

Wilson's Phalarope: This species was especially numerous in the northeast and in several RWB counties; breeding was suspected in *Dakota*, where at least three females and a male were present all summer (BFH), but no evidence for breeding was provided for other locations.

Red-necked Phalarope: None were reported during the period: expected first fall dates are in late Jul.

Laughing Gull: The only report of this annual summer visitor was of a juvenile at BOL 19-22 Jul (SKr, MW, TG; photos).

Franklin's Gull: Routine reports.

Ring-billed Gull: The 470 at Lake Alice, *Scotts Bluff* 30 Jul (SMl) was a good late summer tally.

California Gull: The only report was of an adult at LM 26 Jun (JGJ, photos), where expected in low numbers Jun-Jul.

Herring Gull: None were reported; low numbers of immature non-breeders are expected at LM in mid-summer.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: None were reported; this species is rare but annual in mid-summer (6 May-23 Aug).

Least Tern: Routine reports.

Caspian Tern: Two at PSP 11 Jun (BFH) were tardy migrants. Mid-summer sightings (12 Jun-8 Jul) are rare; most reports are from LM, where this summer 1-2 were present 26-28 Jul (JGJ, m. ob.). Unexpected in summer away from LM, singles were in *Buffalo* 16 Jun (AF) and at Sutherland Reservoir, *Lincoln* 30 Jun (BEd).

Black Tern: Routine reports.

Common Tern: None were reported during the period; late spring dates are 20-21 Jun and early fall dates 20-27 Jul.

Forster's Tern: The 136 at BOL 27 Jul (JGJ) was a good count.

Common Loon: Less than annual in the east in summer (1 Jun-15 Sep), there were two reported: an immature was at BOL 5-10 Jun (TG, PTi, photos) and a breeding-plumaged adult, possibly a failed breeder, was unexpected for the dates at HL 30 Jun-19 Jul (SKr photo; m.ob.).

Neotropic Cormorant: None were reported of this annual summer visitor.

Double-crested Cormorant: Routine reports.

American White Pelican: Routine reports.

American Bittern: Routine reports.

Least Bittern: Routine reports.

Great Blue Heron: Routine reports.

Great Egret: Routine reports.

Snowy Egret: The only report was of one at North Platte SL, *Lincoln* 25 Jun (BEd, photo).

Little Blue Heron: None were reported of this uncommon summer visitor east and central, rare casual west.

Cattle Egret: Routine reports.

Green Heron: One at SNWR 4 Jun (SMl) was only the 7th spring and 17th overall Panhandle record.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Rare away from known breeding areas in mid-summer (Jun through mid-Jul), singles were at HL 10 Jun (SKr) and Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, *Phelps* 9 Jul (WF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only report was of an immature in *Hall* 28 Jul (CCh photo).

Glossy Ibis: There were three reports in late Jul from the Sandhills with no evidence of breeding: 20 Jul Lakeside, *Sheridan* (LR, RH), 20 Jul Ellsworth, *Sheridan* (KD), and 24 Jul *Logan* (WF).

White-faced Ibis: Routine reports.

Turkey Vulture: Routine reports.

Osprey: All six of the nest sites in *Scotts Bluff* (see https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/osprey/) were active, although Jirdon's was abandoned early (KD) and two nests, Riverview and Sugar Factory, were

destroyed in storms. Riverview had 2-3 nestlings (KD), but these apparently perished in a storm (DCl). The South Mitchell site had two young and Winters Creek and Berggren's also had nestlings through Jul (DCl). The Keystone nest below the LO dam was being added to 9 Jun (BEd, photo), incubation was in progress 26 Jun (JGJ), and three young were present 12 Jul (CNK). One in *Dakota* 11 Jul was thought to be from a nearby nest site in Iowa (BFH). Probable non-breeding immatures were one at Calamus Reservoir, *Loup* 16 Jun (MRa), two at Lakeside, *Sheridan* 28 Jun (MBe), one at BOL 23 Jul (EWi) and two in *Dodge* 26 Jul (CCr); birds at the last two sites may have been early migrants.

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

Northern Harrier: The only report from the east, where rare in mid-summer, was of one in *Douglas* 10 Jun (JOK).

Cooper's Hawk: Routine reports.

Bald Eagle: Routine reports.

Mississippi Kite: Two adults were near Antelope Park, Lincoln, *Lancaster* 31 Jul-2 Aug (DBa, MW photo), suggestive of nesting at a new and easterly location. Another likely new location, but in an expected area, is Grant, *Perkins*, where four were overhead 29 Jul (ZHu). An adult was incubating at North Platte, *Lincoln* 5 Jul (RFl photo); there were several reports from this known location (RMo, RFl, CWi). Elsewhere, routine reports were received without breeding evidence from known sites at Imperial, *Chase* (EKi, BKr), and Benkelman, *Dundy* (JGJ, RKo).

Red-shouldered Hawk: None were reported of this rare but increasing southeastern breeder.

Broad-winged Hawk: Adding to an increase of westerly reports in recent years, an immature was in *Dawes* 18 Jun (JWa, AHu; photo). Northerly in the Missouri River Valley were one, possibly two, at PSP 12-13 Jun (EBr, MB, LBr), a likely breeding location.

Swainson's Hawk: Mid-summer (Jun-Jul) reports in the east are likely immature non-breeders; easternmost was one in *Pawnee* 7 Jul (CCh) and there were five additional similar reports of singles 19 Jun-16 Jul in *Madison* (CSc), *Adams* (JGJ), *Hall* (CCh photo), and *Clay* (JGJ).

Red-tailed Hawk: Adults tending two juveniles in *Lancaster* 25-30 Jun (EJa) was on a rather late date for dependent juveniles.

Ferruginous Hawk: The only breeding evidence reported was of 2-3 three-week-old nestlings in a nest in *Dundy* 20 Jun (JGJ), an expected date for nestlings.

Barn Owl: A nest at PSP with seven chicks still had six young 27-28 Jul (MB, EBr, JJ); apparently this nest site was active and successful in 2015 and 2018. Another active nesting area is along the Nebraska Public Power District Canal, *Keith*, where a total of six were tallied 6 Jul (JMa).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Breeding birds in northwestern Nebraska tend to be paler; two at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* 13 Jun (DSa) were reported as the "Western Taiga" form, presumably subspecies *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* or intergrades with *B. v. pallescens*, both pale subspecies.

Burrowing Owl: Routine reports.

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: None were reported of this rare summer statewide resident.

Short-eared Owl: The only reports were from likely breeding areas: three, a possible family group, were at Fort Robinson SP, *Dawes* 11 Jul (PDo) and one was near Crookston, *Cherry* 11 Jun (SBr).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The only reports were of recordings made in likely breeding habitat: one during a nightjar survey north of the Niobrara River and east of Highway 183 in *Keya Paha* 12 Jun (SBr) and the other at Keller Park SRA, *Brown* 13 Jun (SBr).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: None were reported of this less-than-annual western breeder; the only regular known breeding site is below Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux*. Expected last spring dates for spring visitors are in mid-Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Only the 4th record of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Dryobates villosus monticola* was of one at WHNC 16 Jun (SMl, VRe; photo).

Northern Flicker: "Red-shafted" flickers are not expected in summer in the state; one with "red shafts" along West Ash Creek Road, *Dawes* 16 Jun (RSt) was only the 2nd record for Jun and probably a tardy spring migrant.

Pileated Woodpecker: Routine reports.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: None were reported of this rare Pine Ridge breeder.

Peregrine Falcon: Exciting was the fledging of 10 young birds at the three Omaha, *Douglas* sites. Three nestlings were banded at the Woodmen Life Tower, four fledged at the Mutual of Omaha building, and three at the Omaha Public Power District station in North Omaha (restricted access; JT). Lincoln news was discouraging, however; the long-time pair at the State Capitol Building failed for the third consecutive year; their age is likely a factor as they have nested there successfully for 12 years 2005-2016.

Prairie Falcon: A cliff nest with three nearly-fledged chicks was photographed along Morrill Road, *Sioux* 29-30 Jun (BKr).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: One in *Kimball* 1 Jun (SMl) was a rare westerly record.

Western Wood-Pewee: The 51 in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 13 Jun (SMl) was a record spring count, probably a mix of local breeders and migrants still moving through.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The 15 at FF 7 Jun (DTo) was a good tally. One in *Thomas* 30 Jun (JNo, DWi) was westerly, only the 4th report there, all since 2014.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: None were reported of this rare eastern spring migrant; expected last dates are 1-4 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: This species was ubiquitous at ICSP this spring; best counts were 12 on 8 Jun (SMa), tying the spring record, and 10 on 2 Jun (WRS).

Alder Flycatcher: Apparently a first Panhandle record of this almost statewide migrant was one at OR 1 Jun (SMl), although it is considered "common" in *Keith* (see https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/alder-flycatcher/).

Willow Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Least Flycatcher: One at ICSP 8 Jun (JMa) was probably a tardy migrant, and an early fall migrant was in *Scotts Bluff* 17 Jul (WF). Breeding may occur in northwest Nebraska on occasion and so reports in *Scotts Bluff* 13 Jun (RMo) and 6 Jul (M&DW) were of interest.

Dusky Flycatcher: One at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 14 Jun (SMl, VRe) was the third Nebraska record for Jun, all from the northern Panhandle. Breeding occurs as close as the Black Hills in South Dakota.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The 10 in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 13 Jun (SMl) was a good count.

Eastern Phoebe: Two in *Scotts Bluff* 12 Jun (DSa) were westerly.

Say's Phoebe: Singles sighted in *Clay* 11 and 25 Jul suggested local nesting (JGJ, SBr); there are about four previous nesting records in the northwestern part of the RWB.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: A bird found and photographed near Exit 1 on I-80 in *Kimball* 29 Jun (BEd) was joined by another 5 Jul (JGJ, MPa) and 1-2 were seen through 17 Jul (MB, EBr, BFH) when last reported (MW, SMa, KD).

This Ash-throated Flycatcher, Nebraska's third documented record, was found near Exit 1 on I-80 in *Kimball* 29 Jun by Boni Edwards, here photographed 4 Jul by Michael Willison. It was last reported 17 Jul.

Great Crested Flycatcher: One photographed carrying what appeared to be nest material in *Hall* 3 Jul (RFl) was of interest; although generally not double-brooded, egg-laying can be as late as 10 Jul in Canada (*Birds of North America Online*).

Cassin's Kingbird: Routine reports.

Western Kingbird: Eppley Airfield, *Douglas* is a magnet for this species; 28 were counted 4 Jun (L&BP).

Eastern Kingbird: Routine reports.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Reports were from three locations in *Pawnee* and *Jefferson.* Singles were near Reynolds, *Jefferson* 25 Jul (SQ) and near Burchard, *Pawnee* 29 Jul (MHu), but most excitement was along 626 Avenue south of Table Rock, *Pawnee*, where a nesting pair was present 5 Jun (JGJ, SBr). A single had been seen there 15 May (SBr), a juvenile was seen 13 Jul (CCh), and as many as five adults were counted in 1.25 hr. within 4.5 mi in the area 16 Jun (TG).

Loggerhead Shrike: Routine reports.

Bell's Vireo: Panhandle reports have increased, accounting for about 80% of the reports since 2005. This summer (mid Jun-Jul) there were four more, all singles, at Fort Robinson SP, *Dawes* 12 Jun (TG), Ash Hollow SHP, *Garden* 17 Jun (RSt), Chadron Reservoirs, *Dawes* 19 Jul (WF), and the Niobrara River crossing at Trail 131, *Sheridan* 20 Jul (WF). One at Wildcat Hills SRA, *Scotts Bluff* 4 Jun (K&JC) was likely a spring visitor.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Singles in *Buffalo* 12 Jul (BBr) and *Brown* 1 Jun (DSa) were west of the expected breeding range, although both were probably migrants.

Blue-headed Vireo: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 6-12 Jun.

Plumbeous Vireo: Tardy were singles in *Scotts Bluff* 2 Jun (KD) and three at Wildcat Hills SRA, *Scotts Bluff* (K&JC). A surprising tally was the 10 at the latter location 1 Jun (SMl). Recent reports in the Wildcat Hills are suggestive of incipient breeding there; this summer, reports were for 12 Jun (TG), 13 Jun (KPr), and 17 Jul (MB, BFH, EBr).

Warbling Vireo: The three reports of the Pine Ridge breeding specialty "Western" Warbling Vireo, subspecies *Vireo gilvus brewsteri,* were, however, of migrants: singles at OR 1 Jun (SMl), SNWR 4 Jun (SMl), and Kiowa WMA, *Scotts Bluff* 30 Jul (SMl). At the western limit in the Niobrara River Valley of the range of "Eastern" Warbling Vireo, subspecies *V. g. gilvus*, was one at Cottonwood Lake SRA, *Cherry* 10 Jul (PTi). Breeding of the species is not known in the Panhandle south of the North Platte River Valley, and so eastern *V. g. gilvus* at OR 1 and 4 Jun (SMl) were presumed migrants; singles not identified to subspecies, likely fall migrants, were along Lodgepole Creek in *Cheyenne* 13 Jul (WF) and at OR 17 Jul (MB, BFH, EBr). One at OR 26 Jun was probably a western (RKo); breeding is unknown there.

Red-eyed Vireo: A "stunning" count for the Pine Ridge was the 17 at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 14 Jun (SMl). Near-fledged nestlings were noted at Schramm SP, *Sarpy* 28 Jun (ASc).

Pinyon Jay: The first reports since fall 2018 were from three easterly locations on the Pine Ridge between Crawford and Chadron. One was at Bordeaux WMA, *Dawes* 12 Jun (BKr), two were on West Ash Creek Road, *Dawes* 15 Jun (SMl, VRe) and another was at a different location on West Ash Creek Road 18 Jun (RSt).

Blue Jay: A rather late family group with dependent fledglings was in a *Scotts Bluff* yard 27 Jul (KD).

Black-billed Magpie: The populations of this species in Nebraska are becoming more disjunct. The reports were from five areas, listed here in order of high count reported: North Platte River Valley, *Scotts Bluff*, with high counts of 13 in two family groups at SNWR 4 Jun (SMl) and eight at Scotts Bluff NM 14 Jun (DSa); Fort Robinson SRA and SP, *Dawes* and *Sioux*, with four in Smiley Canyon 24-25 Jun (CCh); western Republican River Valley, with four at Culbertson, *Hitchcock* 20 Jun (JGJ); Ogallala/LM area, *Keith*, with four along the NPPD Canal below Keystone Dam 6 Jul (JMa); and, perhaps of most interest, a small population persisting a few miles southwest of Obert, *Cedar*, where a nest was found in 2017 and three birds were seen 31 Jul this year (CWe fide JGJ), video). No reports were received for Jun-Jul from the only other known northeastern Nebraska populations, near Crofton, *Knox*, and in *Madison* and *Pierce*.

American Crow: Routine reports.

Horned Lark: A nest with small nestlings in *Sioux* 25 Jun (BKr, photo) was a rather late apparent second brood.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Tree Swallow: Routine reports.

Violet-green Swallow: A single was well-documented at Pine Bluffs, *Kimball* 17 Jun (SMl, VRe), an unexpected mid-summer location; "Birds of Wyoming" (Faulkner 2010) does not show breeding in this area.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: This species is still a rarity in Valentine and northeastern *Cherry,* although numbers are slowly increasing. This summer 2-3 were reported in Valentine 8 Jun-26 Jul (JED) as well as singles there 9 and 11 Jun (KS, SBr), and 3-6 at Fort Niobrara NWR 20 Jun (DFo) and 10 Jul (DFi). One of only three reports in the Niobrara River Valley between *Knox* and *Cherry* was one at Norden Road, *Keya Paha* 1 Jun (DTo).

Barn Swallow: A nest with eggs in *Adams* 28 Jul (FMa) was a second brood.

Cliff Swallow: Routine reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: Routine reports.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Oddly, the only reports away from expected breeding areas were four in east Lincoln, *Lancaster*. There were probable breeding records in Lincoln 2010, 2014, 2015, and so it seems possible this species might be establishing in the city. Two of the reports were in the breeding season, one just west of Mahoney Park (70th and Fremont Sts.) 17 Jun (M&CV) and one at the same park 1 Jul (M&CV). The other two Lincoln reports were in late Jul, so possibly early fall visitors: 27 Jul at Rockhurst Drive (JGJ) and 29 Jul near HL (CSa).

White-breasted Nuthatch: As expected, the four reports of "Interior West" subspecies *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni* were from the Pine Ridge (SMl, VRe, SSp, KVS), although two observers (SMl, MW) noted separately some equivocal features suggestive of influence of "Eastern" subspecies *S. c. carolinensis* and/or possibly recent molt. An Eastern was reported at SNWR 4 Jun (SMl); this subspecies occurs in low numbers in the North Platte River Valley west at least to the Wyoming border.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The small breeding population at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* appears to be continuing; five were on Scott Tower Trail 30 Jun (DWi photo). Nesting occurred at NNF Bessey in 2014 and 2017.

Brown Creeper: This is a rare Pine Ridge breeder, with documented records only from West Ash Creek Canyon, *Dawes*; thus significant was the presence of a pair in East Ash Creek Canyon 16 Jun (JNi, recording).

Rock Wren: Routine reports. (Correction: the wrens reported in the June 2019 NBR from Calamus Reservoir were House Wrens, not Rock Wrens.)

House Wren: A "nest full" was a bit late for nestlings in *Sarpy* 29 Jul (LSl).

Sedge Wren: Spring-summer (Jun through early Jul) breeding season records have typically been rare in Nebraska, especially in the southeast, with most breeding season activity not becoming obvious there until mid-Jul. This year, however, such early summer records were numerous, perhaps due to excellent water conditions and plentiful breeding habitat. There were about 10 sites with at least one Sedge Wren 8 Jun-6 Jul (m. ob.), including five with multiple birds where breeding might have occurred although no evidence was provided: SCP; Frank Shoemaker Marsh, *Lancaster*; Jack Sinn WMA, *Lancaster* and *Saunders*; Flanagan Lake, Omaha, *Douglas*; and Shoemaker Road in *Hall*.

Marsh Wren: Routine reports.

Carolina Wren: One in *Hall* 15 Jun (LR, RH) was a bit west of the expected summer range, but quite unexpected was one at OR 14 Jul (WF), only the 2nd overall Panhandle record.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: In the last decade, first dates at various Sandhills locations (CLNWR, NNF Bessey) suggest that increasing reports in the Niobrara River Valley in the northeastern *Cherry* area are of the western subspecies *Polioptila caerulea obscura*, which has been expanding its range northeastward while the summer range of eastern *P. c. caerulea* has been essentially unchanged. East of *Cherry* in the Niobrara River Valley there are very few reports between *Knox* and *Keya Paha/Rock*; the eastern subspecies *P. c. caerulea* apparently extends westward only to western *Knox*. This putative gap was supported by the lack of reports this summer between a single *P. c. caerulea* along the Missouri River at Lynch, *Boyd* 3 Jun (DTo), possibly a migrant, and a single not assigned to subspecies at Fred Thomas WMA, *Rock* 29 Jun (K&JC). Similarly, in the Platte River Valley, there are only three Jun-Jul reports in all between *Dodge* and *Dawson*, two of which were this summer: singles at Mormon Island SRA, *Hall* 14 Jun (BCa) and at Rowe Sanctuary, *Buffalo* 14 Jun (KHa).

Eastern Bluebird: Somewhat out of the expected summer range were singles at Hyannis, *Grant* 28 Jun (MBe) and along Murphy Road about five miles south of Agate, *Sioux* 29 Jun (BKr), only the 6th and 7th records in the western Sandhills. Early fledglings were in *Lancaster* 2 Jun (LRu).

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Townsend's Solitaire: One was photographed at Ponderosa WMA, *Dawes* 16 Jun (PDo); the summer and breeding status of this species in Nebraska is unclear, with very few Jun-Jul records.

Veery: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 5-7 Jun.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 3-6 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: Singles at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* 14 Jun (DSa) and Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 16 Jun (JNi photo) were tardy; expected last spring dates in the west are 17-19 Jun. That migration is later in the west is affirmed by the excellent tally of 43 at OR 1 Jun (SMl); all were identified as the expected "Olive-backed" subspecies *Catharus ustulatus swainsoni*, except for a single representative of the "Russet-backed" subspecies *C. u. ustulatus* (SMl). The latter is the first documented Nebraska record of *C. u. ustulatus*, although there are several recent eBird reports from northeastern Colorado.

Wood Thrush: One of few Niobrara River Valley reports west of *Holt*/*Boyd* was one recorded at Hutton Sanctuary, *Rock* 13 Jun (JSc).

American Robin: Routine reports.

Gray Catbird: Among few reports in the Panhandle south of the North Platte River Valley were singles (same bird?) at OR 1 and 4 Jun (SMl).

Brown Thrasher: Routine reports.

Sage Thrasher: The only report was of one along State Line Road near Pine Bluffs, *Kimball* 16 Jun (MB, EBr, BFH, photo); there are a number of breeding season records of Sage Thrasher in Nebraska but very few of documented breeding.

Northern Mockingbird: Northerly reports were of singles at CSP 20 Jun (JSS), Verdigre, *Knox* 2 Jun (DTo) and in *Burt* 1 Jun (JOK).

European Starling: Flocks of juveniles appear by mid-Jun; such a flock was the 40 in *Saunders* 15 Jun (TG).

Cedar Waxwing: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

House Finch: Routine reports.

Red Crossbill: This species was widely reported in good numbers in the Panhandle; at WHNC the 40 on 16 Jun had increased to 180 by 31 Jul (SMl, VRe). The six reports east of the Panhandle began in Jul, indicative of a potential fall movement eastward, reaching central Nebraska with two in *Buffalo* 13 Jul (BBr), and six in *Nance* 14 Jul (LKe), and the northeast with one at GPD 22 Jul (MB) and six in *Wayne* 27 Jul (EBr). The expected call type in Nebraska is Type 2, and recordings and calls heard by experienced observers at WHNC were of this type (SMl, SMi, SMa).

Pine Siskin: There were two reports in Jun of 1-2 birds without evidence of nesting: 1-2 were in a Norfolk, *Madison* yard 9-26 Jun (DH) and one was in a Lincoln, *Lancaster* yard 8 and 15 Jun (RSt). There have been numerous similar reports away from the Panhandle over the years.

Lesser Goldfinch: There were numerous reports of this increasingly common western Panhandle species; best count was 11 at WHNC 16 Jun, including both black- and green-backed males (SMl, VRe; photos) as expected. Most were in the WHNC vicinity and at Exit 1 on I-80 near Pine Bluffs, *Kimball*; elsewhere, one was along Wright's Gap Road, *Banner* 22 Jun (KD, RSt). A belated report was of nesting in Wildcat Hills SRA, *Scotts Bluff* in 2018 (KD).

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Routine reports.

McCown's Longspur: Routine reports.

Cassin's Sparrow: Reports were from expected areas in *Kimball* and *Dundy,* but one in northeastern *Scotts Bluff* in sage habitat 15 Jun (EKi) was perhaps a bit unexpected.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Numbers were high in northern grasslands; there were 11 counts of 25+ reported, all from *Sioux, Rock*, and *Brown* (m. ob.). Best count for distance traveled was the 52 in 2.5 miles along Morrill Road, *Sioux* 26 Jun (BKr).

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: East of the expected summer range were one in *Knox* 2 Jun (DTo) and two in *Furnas* 30 Jun (TPe).

Chipping Sparrow: The only record from the southwest, where summer numbers are lowest, was of one in *Red Willow* 19 Jun (JGJ).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Breeding has not been proven in Nebraska and so two singing at separate locations at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* 14 Jun (DSa) were intriguing; they may have been tardy spring migrants, however.

Field Sparrow: This species is less than annual in the breeding season (Jun-Jul) in the Panhandle; the only report was of one at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* 24 Jul (RMi).

Brewer's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Routine reports.

Harris's Sparrow: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 9-10 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.

Baird's Sparrow: Although there are few data, it is apparent this species migrates through Nebraska in spring, with records surprisingly statewide in the narrow period 24 Apr-19 May. Thus, a major surprise was one recorded west of Highway 29 between Agate and Harrison, *Sioux* 13 Jun (EKi), the first Nebraska record for Jun or Jul. Breeding has recently been documented in extreme northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming.

Henslow's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Savannah Sparrow: The two reports this summer from *Scotts Bluff* added to the four previous records there: one singing in a grassy area at Scotts Bluff NM 13 Jun surprised the observer (DSa), and another was in more typical habitat along Highway 26 near Minatare 4 Jun (SMl). This species is an irregular breeder at northern and central locations in the Panhandle.

Song Sparrow: Rare at any time in the Panhandle, there were a surprising seven reports. Five reports were from *Scotts Bluff* (SMl, RMo, MW, RMi), including 10 at SNWR 4 Jun (SMl), and one at Smith Lake WMA, *Sheridan* 20 Jul (KD, LR, RH); records have increased at both locations in recent years. One at OR 26 Jun (RKo) was the first there for a few years.

Swamp Sparrow: One in *Dakota* 29 Jul (ARo) was likely an early fall disperser; breeding is unknown there.

Green-tailed Towhee: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 4-7 Jun.

***Pipilo* Towhees:** Following suggestions in Birds of Nebraska- Online (https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/pipilo-towhees-in-nebraska/), accuracy in eBird reporting of Nebraska's bewildering mix of *Pipilo* towhees was generally much improved.

Spotted/Eastern Towhee ("Rufous-sided Towhee"): The recommended method for reporting most Nebraska summer towhees, which are presumed intergrades, "Spotted/Eastern Towhee", was utilized well, the eBird species map reflecting the expected central location of these birds in the state (https://ebird.org/map/y00226?neg=true&env.minX=-108.01045989990234&env.minY=39.71941335058574&env.maxX=-94.59703302383423&env.maxY=44.65651545258829&zh=true&gp=true&ev=Z&mr=6-7&bmo=6&emo=7&yr=cur&byr=2019&eyr=2019).

Spotted x Eastern (hybrid) Towhee: There were reports from only eight locations, all but two of which were in central Nebraska and could probably have been more accurately reported as "Spotted/Eastern Towhee (Rufous-sided Towhee)", i.e. intergrades. The two exceptions were one in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 13 Jun (SMl) and 1-3 at WHNC 1 Jun-30 Jul (SMl, VRe, SBa; photos), which stood a chance of being true first-generation hybrids, if due only to their location and in the absence of conclusive genetic analysis.

Spotted Towhee: Spotted Towhee and towhees with apparent Spotted Towhee genes occur mostly in the Panhandle, Niobrara and Missouri River Valleys east to *Knox*, and in the western Loup River Drainage. There were numerous reports, most without details, of Spotted Towhee south and east of these areas, where this species is not expected in summer. Of the 18 southeasternmost reports in eBird, only eight had identification details, five of these only brief written comments and three with photographs, two of the latter of the same bird. None of the written comments supported identification as Spotted Towhee, and the photo of one of the two birds involved was inconclusive. The only convincing report of the 18 was of a male in *Hall* 14 Jun (BCa photo) that looked like a phenotypic Spotted Towhee.

Recent work in the Panhandle by Steve Mlodinow has found that the eastern Rocky Mountain subspecies *Pipilo maculatus montanus* (entered into eBird as "*maculatus* group") occurs along the South Platte River into Nebraska where it may occur over a larger area than previously suspected. Identification revolves mostly around the extent of white in the tail and was made only from clear photographs. Reports were of one at WHNC 30 Jul (SMl photo, eBird.org) and two as far north as East Ash Creek, *Dawes* 15 Jun (SMl photo, eBird.org), likely the same two reported there 13 Apr 2019.

Eastern Towhee: Most reports were within the expected eastern Nebraska range, with two exceptions. No details were provided for 1-2 in *Brown* 5 and 7 Jun, and although two at NNF Bessey 30 Jun sang the classic "drink your tea" song, this in itself is not conclusive for identification of this species.

Yellow-breasted Chat: The few summer reports in the east in the 2000s parallel the increasing number of spring records; of the eight summer records, most along the Missouri River Valley, four were in 2019: 8 Jun, two at ICSP which behaved as though nesting (JMa, SMa), 13 Jun *Otoe* (SMa), 2 Jul *Cedar* (SFi), and 11 Jul *Dakota* (BFH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.

Bobolink: Routine reports.

Eastern Meadowlark: This species is less than annual in the southwest; there are only two records for *Kimball, Banner*, and *Cheyenne*, and one for *Perkins, Chase,* or *Dundy*. A recording submitted for *Chase* this summer was unfortunately equivocal.

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: Routine reports.

Bullock's Oriole: Routine reports.

Baltimore Oriole: Routine reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Routine reports.

Great-tailed Grackle: Until this year, reports in the southwest were rare, but there were eight reports in *Deuel, Cheyenne*, and *Kimball* (m. ob.), indicating consolidation in the Frenchman Creek Valley. Reports from areas where breeding is still rare were of one on the Oglala National Grassland, *Sioux* 14 Jun (SMl, VRe), and singles in *Dakota* 17 Jun (ARo) and *Madison* 19 Jun (JTh).

Ovenbird: The putative breeding population at Bessey NNF might be struggling; the only report was of one on 16 Jun (LRi). One at Scotts Bluff NM, *Scottsbluff* 14 Jun (DSa) was likely a tardy migrant.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Routine reports.

Northern/Louisiana Waterthrush: A waterthrush on Fort Falls Trail, Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* 10 Jul (DFi) was a puzzle; it was very early for a migrant Northern, far out of breeding range for a Louisiana, but in either case a significant sighting. Unfortunately, the details provided could not differentiate between the two possibilities.

Black-and-white Warbler: Evidence is accumulating for possible breeding in the PSP area; a single there 19-20 Jun (MB, EBr) followed one there 9-10 Jun 2017. One at NNF Bessey 30 Jun (DWi, JNo) was the first mid-Jun through mid-Jul report there for some 60 years.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported of this rare southeastern breeder, likely due to extensive flooding in the Missouri River flood plain and restricted access by observers.

Tennessee Warbler: Routine reports; spring migrants were reported through 3 Jun, one at PSP (MB).

Orange-crowned Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 1-3 Jun.

MacGillivray's Warbler: The only report was of a slightly tardy migrant at OR 4 Jun (SMl).

Mourning Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 12-15 Jun.

Kentucky Warbler: Routine reports.

Common Yellowthroat: Routine reports.

American Redstart: The 57 at FF 7 Jun (DTo) was an excellent count, probably a mix of local breeders and tardy migrants.

Northern Parula: Routine reports.

Magnolia Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 4 Jun (three times).

Yellow Warbler: Routine reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 5-8 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 7-8 Jun.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: Breeding has not been proven at WHNC; however, two males there 4 Jul (SMa) were the 10th breeding season (16 Jun-29 Jul) record.

Yellow-throated Warbler: None were reported of this locally rare southeastern breeder, possibly due to lack of observer access to the few known breeding sites on the Missouri River floodplain due to excessive flooding.

Wilson's Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 7-8 Jun.

Summer Tanager: One in *Hall* 3 Jun (CCh photo) was a tardy and westerly migrant.

Scarlet Tanager: A wandering spring migrant in *Scotts Bluff* 1 Jun (KD photo) was only the 5th Panhandle spring record.

Western Tanager: Since 2015, breeding season reports have increased in the Wildcat Hills although breeding there has not been documented. This summer singles were reported 16 Jun (BKr), 29 Jun (BEd), and 8 Jul (DWe). Another was at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 21 Jun (RSt). A good tally was the eight in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 13 Jun (SMl).

Northern Cardinal: Westward progress in the Niobrara River Valley was evident this summer; westernmost on record (east of the Pine Ridge) was one at the Eli Road Niobrara River crossing 21 Jul (WF), only about 10 miles east of Merriman.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Rare in the Panhandle, one was about as far west as it could be in Nebraska, at SNWR 4 Jun (SMl).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: Easternmost and a bit tardy, although not surprising as spring migrants, were two at NVP in *Brown* 1 Jun (DSa). Reporters were understandably cautious about field identifications of Lazuli and Indigo Buntings on the Pine Ridge; of 35 total reports, 16 were Lazuli Buntings, seven were Indigo Buntings, six were Lazuli/Indigo intergrades (PDo, SMl, VRe, DTo, JNi), and six were Lazuli x Indigo hybrids (PDo). Since the narrow hybrid zone lies at the east edge of the Pine Ridge, these reports, if accurate, suggest a continuing westward movement of Indigo Bunting genes.

Indigo Bunting: As noted above, seven were reported on the Pine Ridge (PDo, TG). Numbers were good overall in the Panhandle, where this species is generally rare; there were six additional reports, most from Scotts Bluff NM, *Scotts Bluff* (DSa, EJa, SFu), but singles were at OR 26 Jun (RKo) and Bayard, *Morrill* 22 Jun (EJa). The 21 at Neale Woods, *Douglas* 12 Jul (JR) was a good count.

Dickcissel: Reports were numerous in the Panhandle, although there were no double-digit counts. Excellent counts were the 80 at SCP 28 Jul (MSh) and 74 at BOL 21 Jul (M&CV).

2018 (30th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Mark A. Brogie - NOU Records Committee Chairperson
508 Seeley Street
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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) are described in its bylaws (NOURC 2010). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. Accidental and casual species for which the NOURC seeks documentation (NOURC Review List) can be found at the NOU website www.NOUbirds.org.

All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of The Nebraska Bird Review (NBR).

NOURC Criteria for Accepted Records:

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOURC 2010). Records in the following categories are classified as accepted:

I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
I-P - diagnostic, labeled photographic evidence exists
I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2018, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data (i.e. placement in the above acceptance categories) of Nebraska birds. Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence, as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 2009 - 2018. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOURC 2017):

Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years.
Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years.
Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years.
Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years.
Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2017" (NOURC 2017).

Nebraska State List:

The following includes all revisions made by the American Ornithological Society (Chesser et al. 2018) in 2018 including scientific name changes and taxonomic realignment that affect the current published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2017" (NOURC 2017, www.NOUbirds.org). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2018 calendar year covering 187 records with accession numbers 1972 - 2158.

2018 Additions/Deletions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska":

There was one new species added in 2018. Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) Accidental - Class 1-P.

With this addition, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at **463** species.

2018 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) changed from Casual to Accidental
2. Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) changed from Casual to Regular
3. White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) changed from Casual to Regular
4. Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) changed to Casual to Accidental
5. Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) changed to Casual to Accidental

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions:

The Fifty-ninth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds (Chesser et al. 2018) effected the following changes to the "Official List" of Nebraska Birds.

The Hawks (Accipitridae) have a new subfamily classification and sequence. Nebraska species are now as follows:

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)
Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)
Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)
Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

The woodpecker genus *Picoides* has been split. Genetic work has shown that the genus Picoides is polyphyletic. The changes to Nebraska species are now as follows, in this sequence.

American Three-toed Woodpecker stays as (*Picoides dorsalis*)
Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens* becomes *Dryobates pubescens*)
Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus* becomes *Dryobates villosus*)

The English name of *Perisoreus canadensis* has changed from Gray Jay to Canada Jay.

The sparrow genus *Ammodramus* has been split. *Centronyx* and *Ammospiza* were considered congeneric with *Ammodramus*, but genetic data indicate that *Ammodramus* as previously constituted was polyphyletic and that these species are not true *Ammodramus*. As a result, North America now has only one species in the genus *Ammodramus*: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*).

Nebraska species affected by this change are as follows:

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii* becomes *Ammospiza leconteii*)
Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni* becomes *Ammospiza nelsoni*)
Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii* becomes *Centronyx bairdii*)
Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii* becomes *Centronyx henslowii*)

NOURC Accepted Records (Received in 2018):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Three birds were photographed (Class 1-P, EMB) 19 June 2018 near Atkinson, Holt County. Accession # 2082.

A single bird found at Cody Park in North Platte, Lincoln Co. was well documented.
1. Description (Class III, MS) 23 June 2018. Accession # 2084.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, BE) 25 June 2018. Accession # 2087.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 28 June 2018. Accession # 2104.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, WF) 30 June 2018. Accession # 2105.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, BB) 01 July 2018. Accession # 2106.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, BW) 03 July 2018. Accession # 2107.

Additionally, two birds were discovered Holmes Lake, Lancaster County were documented.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, SM) 07 September 2018. Accession # 2111.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 07 September 2018. Accession # 2112.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 07 September 2018. Accession # 2113
10. Photograph (Class 1-P, BR) 07 September 2018. Accession # 2114.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

A Nebraska first was a group of four birds discovered (MH) 05 June 2018 at Wagon Train RA, Lancaster County, that were extensively photographed.
1. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 05 June 2018. Accession # 2051.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 05 June 2018. Accession # 2052.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2053.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, CV) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2054.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, DL) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2055.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2056.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, EJ) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2057.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, JJJ) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2058.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, JC) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2059.
10. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2060.
11. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2061.
12. Photograph (Class 1-P, MB) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2062

13. Photograph (Class 1-P, RuS) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2063.
14. Photograph (Class 1-P, SM) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2064.
15. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2065.
16. Photograph (Class 1-P, SK) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2066.
17. Photograph (Class 1-P, TG) 06 June 2018. Accession # 2067.
18. Photograph (Class 1-P, ER) 07 June 2018. Accession # 2068.
19. Photograph (Class 1-P, RS) 07 June 2018. Accession # 2069.
20. Photograph (Class 1-P, EA) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2070.
21. Photograph (Class 1-P, EW) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2071.
22. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2072.
23. Photograph (Class 1-P, JS) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2073.
24. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2074.
25. Photograph (Class 1-P, WF) 09 June 2018. Accession # 2075.
26. Photograph (Class 1-P, KM) 10 June 2018. Accession # 2076.
27. Photograph (Class 1-P, GJ) 10 June 2018. Accession # 2077.
28. Photograph (Class 1-P, JN) 12 June 2018. Accession # 2078.
29. Photograph (Class 1-P, BB) 16 June 2018. Accession # 2079.
30. Photograph (Class 1-P, SB) 16 June 2018. Accession # 2080.
31. Photograph (Class 1-P, NS) 17 June 2018. Accession # 2081.
32. Photograph (Class 1-P, RuS) 22 June 2018. Accession # 2083.
33. Photograph (Class 1-P, KC) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2088.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

An immature male bird discovered at Summit Lake SRA, Burt County, in December2017 continued into January 2018.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 01 January 2018. Accession # 1972.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, GR) 01 January 2018. Accession # 1973.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, MB) 01 January 2018. Accession # 1974.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, SM) 01 January 2018. Accession # 1975.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, SB) 01 January 2018. Accession # 1976.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, KH) 02 January 2018. Accession # 1979.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, RuS) 02 January 2018. Accession # 1980
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 03 January 2018. Accession # 1981.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, WF) 03 January 2018. Accession # 1982.
10. Photograph (Class 1-P, IH,PH) 04 January 2018. Accession # 1983.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, MaS) 25 July 2018 in Gering, Scotts Bluff County. Accession # 2158.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

A male visiting a feeder south of Fremont, Saunders County was well documented, providing Nebraska's fourth accepted record.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, TH) 03 October, 2018. Accession # 2121.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 06 October, 2018. Accession # 2123.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 06 October, 2018. Accession # 2124.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 06 October, 2018. Accession # 2125.

5. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 07 October, 2018. Accession # 2126.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 07 October, 2018. Accession # 2127.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 07 October, 2018. Accession # 2128.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1. An alternate adult was observed (Class 1-P, NA) 15 January 2018 at Lake McConaughy SRA, Keith County. Accession # 1986.

Additionally, an adult bird was discovered at Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster County.

2. Photograph (Class 1-P, NA) 11 March 2018. Accession # 1997.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 11 March 2018. Accession # 1998.

Martin Bay at Lake McConaughy, Keith County was the location of another sighting in April.

4. Photograph (Class 1-P, NA) 21 April 2018. Accession # 2005.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

A bird discovered at the Alda Bridge Overlook, Hall County, was well documented. This represents Nebraska's third record for the species.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, JN) 23 June 2018. Accession # 2085.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MS) 23 June 2018. Accession # 2086.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2089.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2090.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, ER) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2091.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2092.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2093.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, PR) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2094.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, RF) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2095.
10. Photograph (Class 1-P, RuS) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2096.
11. Photograph (Class 1-P, CCh) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2097.
12. Photograph (Class 1-P, JC) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2098.
13. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 24 June 2018. Accession # 2099.
14. Photograph (Class 1-P, AF) 25 June 2018. Accession # 2100.
15. Photograph (Class 1-P, WF) 26 June 2018. Accession # 2101.
16. Photograph (Class 1-P, JJJ) 26 June 2018. Accession # 2102.
17. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 26 June 2018. Accession # 2103.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

A single bird coming to a feeder in rural Hall County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 22 May 2018. Accession # 2041.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2043.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2044.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2045.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

1. An adult bird was observed (Class 1-P, MW) 17 March 2018 at Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster County. Accession # 1999.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

1. A description (Class III, JGJ) was received of a bird observed 21 April, 2018 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster County. Accession # 2006.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)

One of two immature birds discovered (BaP,LP) at LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co. was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 27 October 2018. Accession # 2140.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 27 October 2018. Accession # 2141.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 27 October 2018. Accession # 2142.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 27 October 2018. Accession # 2143.

Another sighting was that of an immature bird at North Lake Basin WMA, Seward County.

5. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 31 October 2018. Accession # 2144.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, JJJ) 01 November 2018. Accession # 2145.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

An adult male discovered at Plum Creek Valley WMA, Brown County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, WF) by the initial observer 15 September 2018. Accession # 2116.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 16 September 2018. Accession # 2117.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, MC) 16 September 2018. Accession # 2119.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, RH) 16 September 2018. Accession # 2122.

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)

A single bird discovered at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 02 September 2018. Accession # 2109.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 02 September 2018. Accession # 2110.

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

1. An adult female was photographed (Class 1-P, WF) 11 April 2018 at Buffalo County Lake, Buffalo County. Accession # 2003.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1. A description (Class III, LaK) was received of a bird observed 01 May, 2018 at Holmes Lake, Lancaster County. Accession # 2012.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

A single bird coming to a private feeder in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, CC) by the initial observer 08 October 2018. Accession # 2129.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 11 October 2018. Accession # 2131.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, PR) 11 October 2018. Accession # 2132.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 11 October 2018. Accession # 2133.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 12 October 2018. Accession # 2134.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 20 October 2018. Accession # 2136.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, ER) 21 October 2018. Accession # 2137.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 31 December 2018. Accession # 2156.

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class 1-P, EMB) 31 December 2018 coming to a feeder in Gering, Scotts Bluff County. Accession # 2157.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

A single male found in a yard in Lincoln, Lancaster County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class I-P, CV) 13 November 2018. Accession # 2149.
2. Photographs (Class 1-P, ShM) 17 November 2018. Accession # 2150.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 18 November 2018. Accession # 2151.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 18 November 2018. Accession # 2152.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 23 November 2018. Accession # 2153.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, CV) 15 December 2018. Accession # 2155.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

1. A single male was observed (Class 1-P, DW, MW) 01 January 2018 at a feeder in Hay Springs, Sheridan County. Accession # 1978.
2. A single female was observed (Class 1-P, CN via CK) 03 May 2018 at a feeder in Elmwood, Cass County. Accession # 2013.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

Multiple documentations were received of birds present at the New Lutheran Cemetery in Norfolk, Madison County.

1. Photograph (Class I-P, BP) 03 February 2018. Accession # 1988.
2. Photograph (Class I-P, MW) 04 February 2018. Accession # 1989.
3. Photograph (Class I-P, EMB) 08 February 2018. Accession # 1990.
4. Photograph (Class I-P, JR) 17 February 2018. Accession # 1992.
5. Photograph (Class I-P, LK) 17 February 2018. Accession # 1993.
6. Photograph (Class I-P, ShM) 17 February 2018. Accession # 1994.
7. Photograph (Class I-P, WF) 18 February 2018. Accession # 1995.

Additional 2018 records:
8. Two birds were observed (Class I-P, JO) at a feeder 27 March 2018 at Ogallala, Keith County. Accession # 2000.
9. A description (Class III, BH) was received of a bird coming to a feeder on 04 May 2018 in South Sioux City, Dakota County. Accession # 2015.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

The second accepted record for this species in Nebraska was discovered at Wilderness Park, Lancaster County, and (although only a one-day wonder) was well documented.
1. Recording by initial observer (Class 1-R, RuS) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2027.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, DL) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2028.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, ER) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2029.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2030.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 15 May2018. Accession # 2031.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2032.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2033.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, SS) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2034.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, JC) 15 May 2018. Accession # 2035.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

1. A written description and photographs (Class III, MW) were received of a bird observed 13 May 2018 at Wilderness Park, Lancaster County. The photographs provided were not sufficient for stand-alone approval. Accession # 2026.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)

An adult male discovered at Gilbert-Baker WMA, Sioux County, was documented by multiple written descriptions. *
1. Description (Class III, GR) 20 May 2018. Accession # 2037.
2. Description (Class III, KG) 20 May 2018. Accession # 2038.
3. Description (Class III, MU) 20 May 2018. Accession # 2039.
4. Description (Class III, RuS) 20 May 2018. Accession # 2040.

* The above four records will have a Class II designation as three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist.

An additional sighting was that of an adult male at Pawnee SRA, Lancaster County.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 22 May 2018. Accession # 2042.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2046.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, EJ) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2047.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2048.
9. Photograph (Class 1-P, ShM) 23 May 2018. Accession # 2049.

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)

1. A male bird was photographed (Class 1-P, CCh) 03 May 2018 in Grand Island, Hall County. Accession # 2014.
2. A female was photographed (Class 1-P, SK) 08 May 2018 at Wagon Train RA, Lancaster County. Accession # 2018.

A female bird observed at Walnut Grove Park, Douglas County was well documented.

3. Photograph (Class 1-P, BP) 09 May 2018. Accession # 2019.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, KK) 10 May 2018. Accession # 2020.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 10 May 2018. Accession # 2021.

6. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, JGJ) 11 May 2018 at Platte River SP, Cass County. Accession # 2024.
7. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, MAB) 15 May 2018 at Grove Lake WMA, Antelope County. Accession # 2036.

Prairie Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)

A singing male was discovered at Spring Park, Lake McConaughy, Keith County.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, JoS) 30 April 2018. Accession # 2010.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, CS) 30 April 2018. Accession # 2011.

NOURC Unaccepted Records:

Records in the following categories are considered unaccepted (NOURC 2010):

IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.
V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed.
VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification.

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's non-acceptance of the record.

NOURC Unaccepted Records (Received in 2018):

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Several committee members questioned the following records, due to the lack of detailed descriptions and features of the bird relating to possible wild origin.

1. Photograph (Class VI) of an adult bird 13 January 2018 at Lakeside Park, Douglas County. Accession # 1985.

2. Photograph (Class VI) of an adult bird 18 January 2018 at Lakeside Park, Douglas County. Accession # 1987.
3. Photograph (Class VI) of an adult bird 05 April 2018 at North Park, Phelps County. Accession # 2001.
4. Photograph (Class VI) of an adult bird 13 November 2018 at Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County. Accession # 2147.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

1. Photographs of a single bird in Scotts Bluff Co., 19 September 2018 were considered inconclusive for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2118.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. A description of a single bird observed 02 October 2018 at Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County, was considered inconclusive for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2120.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1. Photographs/description of a single bird observed 13 May 2018 at Lake McConaughy spillway, Keith County, was deemed inconclusive for acceptance. Class IV - Accession # 2025.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

1. A description of a single bird seen 12 April 2018 at Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster County, was suggestive of the species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2004.
2. Photographs of several birds observed 27 October, 2018 at Calamus Reservoir, Garfield County, were very suggestive, but were deemed inconclusive for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2139.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

1. A description/photograph of a bird observed 10 April 2018 Pawnee Lake, Lancaster County, lacked detail for approval. Class VI - Accession # 2002.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)

1. A description of a bird observed 01 November 2018 at North Lake Basin WMA, Seward County, lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2146.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

1. A description of a bird observed 24 April, 2018 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster County, was very suggestive of the species but lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2007.
2. A description of a bird observed 12 September 2018 at LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy County, was very suggestive of the species but lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2115.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

1. A description of a bird observed 01 January 2018 west of McCook, Red Willow County, was very suggestive but lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 1977.
2. A description of a bird observed 08 January 2018 along I-80 in Kimball County lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 1984.

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)

1. A description of a pair of birds observed 25 October 2018 at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff County, lacked in detail to add this species to the state list. Class V – Accession # 2138.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. A description of a single bird observed 13 February 2018 at Pioneers Park, Lancaster County, was suggestive of the species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 1991.
2. A description of a single bird in Hamilton Co., 08 December 2018 was suggestive of the species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2154.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

1. A description of birds observed in Dawes Co., 29 April 2018 was suggestive of this species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V – Accession # 2009.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A photograph was received of a bird observed 24 May 2018 near Sutherland, Lincoln County, was deemed inconclusive. Class VI - Accession # 2050.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. A description of two birds seen 26 February 2018 in North Platte, Lincoln County, was suggestive of the species but lacked detail for approval. Class IV – Accession # 1996.

Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*)

1. A description of two birds observed 28 April 2018 in Saline County was very suggestive of the species but was deemed inconclusive. Class V - Accession # 2008.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)

1. A description of a bird heard calling 08 May 2018 at Fontanelle Forest, Sarpy County, was deemed inconclusive. Class V - Accession # 2017.
2. A description of a single bird observed 11 May 2018 at Fontanelle Forest, Sarpy County, was very suggestive of the species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class IV - Accession # 2023.

NOURC Non-Review List Records (Received in 2018) Filed Without Votes:

The following records are those of species not on the NOURC Review List but which have been accessioned due to other circumstances (out-of range, non-normal date of occurrence, unusual nesting record, etc.). These records have been filed without NOURC votes.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

1. Photographs (MAB) were filed of a pair with young observed 16 August 2018 west of Brunswick on Hwy 20, Antelope County. Accession # 2108.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

1. Photographs (JR) of an immature bird 20 October 2018 at the Gering Cemetery, Scotts Bluff County, were filed. Accession # 2135.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*)

1. Photographs (GH) were filed of a green-backed male coming to a feeder 04 May 2018 in Murray, Cass County. A similar bird was photographed in Murray in January 2017. Accession # 2016.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei)*

1. Photographs (JR) of a possible adult female observed 10 October 2018 in Omaha, Douglas County, were filed. Accession # 2130.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*)

1. A photograph (JiP) was filed of an adult male observed 13 November 2018 coming to a feeder in North Platte, Lincoln County. Accession # 2148.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1. Photographs (MW) of an eastward adult male observed 11 May 2018 in Wilderness Park, Lancaster County, were filed. Accession # 2022.

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In the 2017 NOURC Report (NBR Vol. 86, No. 3, Sept. 2018) Laurel Badura's name was incorrectly listed as Laura Baldera.

2018 NOURC Members:

Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel G. Jorgensen, Loren Padelford, Justin Rink, W. Ross Silcock, T.J. Walker, and Michael Willison.

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New Wilson's Phalarope Nesting Record from the Central Platte River Valley, Mormon Island, Hall County, Nebraska

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The southeastern portion of the Wilson's Phalarope's (*Phalaropus tricolor*) breeding range encompasses parts of Nebraska (Colwell and Jehl 1994), including the Sandhills and northern Panhandle (Silcock and Jorgensen 2018). Additionally, there have been a number of breeding records from southcentral and southeastern Nebraska within the Rainwater Basin ecoregion since the mid-1990s (Mollhoff 2016, Silcock and Jorgensen 2018). However, there is very little evidence of regular breeding activity in the nearby Central Platte River Valley (CPRV), which spans from Chapman west to Overton, Nebraska, and is considered a globally important area for waterbirds (Johnsgard and Brown 2013, Silcock and Jorgensen 2018). Sutton and Arcilla (2018) documented two juvenile Wilson's Phalaropes with two adults on 28 June 2017, confirming successful breeding in the CPRV on Mormon Island, Hall County, Nebraska. However, Sutton and Arcilla (2018) did not document an active nest and therefore lack a detailed description of the nesting habitat used by Wilson's Phalaropes in this unique ecoregion.

On 6 June 2019 we found a Wilson's Phalarope nest while walking between avian point count stations on Mormon Island, 4.7 km northwest of Doniphan and 14.4 km southwest of Grand Island, Nebraska, on land owned and managed for the benefit of migratory birds by the Crane Trust (https://cranetrust.org/). The landscape is managed with rotational grazing and prescribed fire to simulate natural disturbance regimes (Fuhlendorf et al. 2009). Mormon Island contains the largest contiguous tract of wet meadow remaining in the CPRV (Currier and Henszey 1996, Brei and Bishop 2008). Mormon Island consists of about 1075 hectares (ha) or 2,656 acres (ac) of primarily relict and restored wet meadow and lowland tallgrass prairie habitat, and exists within a complex of 2,425 ha (5,992 ac) of land protected for conservation purposes along a 13 km (~8 mi.) stretch of the Platte River.

The nest was found when an adult male Wilson's Phalarope flushed directly off the nest from the ground at a distance of approximately 3 meters (m) from approaching observers. The nest was located in a wet meadow (For "wet meadow" see Tiner 2016; N 40.80045, W -98.41100; 577 m elevation), topographically above and 4.5 m north of an east-west oriented slough (For "slough" see Meyer and Whiles 2008). The slough contained predominantly shallow marsh habitat (For "shallow marsh" see Kantrud et al. 1989), which was dominated by aquatic-emergent vegetation including Common Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Slimstem Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis stricta*), Broom Sedge (*Carex scoparia*), American Bur-Reed (*Sparganium americanum*), and included about 30% open water (vascular plant identification following Kaul et al 2011). The slough spanned about 6.5 meters in

wetted width and had a maximum water depth of about 25 cm as of 6 June 2019. The nest, which contained 4 eggs as of 6 June 2019, was on the ground and primarily constructed from senesced perennial graminoid leaves (Figure 1). The interior diameter of the nest cup was approximately 70 mm and the cup depth was about 20 mm. The nest was relatively well covered by surrounding vegetation, which averaged about 40 cm in height around the outer circumference of the nest including Clustered Field Sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), Poverty Rush (*Juncus tenuis*), and Common Threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens*) (Figure 1). Great Plains breeding birds depend on particular spatial as well as temporal habitat niches as site characteristics vary across ecological succession and are regulated by the duration since and intensity of "focal disturbances" such as fire and grazing (Fuhlendorf et al. 2019). The 115 ha (284 ac) pasture used by the Wilson's Phalaropes for nesting was grazed beginning 15 April 2019 by about 250 cows in conjunction with another 120 ha (297 ac) pasture, resulting in an estimated stocking rate of 1.95 animal unit months per ha (0.79 AUM/ac) at the time of the nest observation. The area was last burned 17 April 2014.

Figure 1. Photograph of Wilson's Phalarope nest containing four eggs taken on 6 June 2019 within a wet meadow on Mormon Island, Hall County, Nebraska.

On 6 June 2019 we observed two adult Wilson's Phalaropes in the vicinity of the detected nest after quickly examining and photographing it. We noted two additional adults approximately 450 m to the southwest as well. On 10 June 2019 we revisited the nest location but were unable to conclusively relocate the nest site despite the use of a high quality Global Positioning System unit (GPS 73, Garmin Ltd., Lenexa, KS). However, we located a grassy depression reminiscent of the nest, which contained no eggs or adult male Wilson's Phalaropes attending. Nevertheless, we observed two adults about 120 m south (~ 200° bearing) of the documented nesting location within 5 m of another slough wetland with open marsh habitat. On 10 June

2019 we documented a total of 6 individual adult Wilson's Phalaropes within one general area (within 800 m) near the documented nesting location.

On 28 June 2019 another Wilson's Phalarope nest was detected on Mormon Island while we were conducting wet meadow vegetation surveys. The nest was located as surveyors approached within 5 m and a chick jumped out of its nest suggesting it had recently hatched, as Wilson's Phalaropes leave the nest within 1 day of hatching (Colwell and Jehl 1994). The nest was empty of other chicks. The chick unsuccessfully attempted flight several times after leaving the nest and eventually ran to seek cover under a nearby False Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*). At least two adult male Wilson's Phalaropes which called and circled overhead were detected nearby, potentially indicating the presence of fledglings from more than one nest in the area. Observers quickly recorded a GPS coordinate near the nest (N 40.79815, W -98.42532; 579 m elevation) before continuing their vegetation surveys. This nest was located 4 meters north of one slough and 18 meters south of another slough, both of which contained about 3 inches (~8 cm) of water at the time of the observation. This nesting site was approximately 1,245 m west of the nesting site documented on 6 June 2019. The nest was located on a small hummock of Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Slimstem Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis stricta*), and Clustered Field Sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), and the surrounding vegetation consisted of Fowl Mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), Common Threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), and False Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*). The 107 ha (264 ac) pasture was periodically grazed by approximately 250 cattle during the 2018 growing season (mid-April to early-November); the cattle also had periodic access to 3 other pastures resulting in an estimated stocking rate of ~2.47 animal unit months per ha (~1.00 AUM/acre). This area was last burned in early March 2014.

Data from a long-term weather station near Hastings, Nebraska, 17.4 km southwest of the Wilson's Phalarope nest documented in 2019 (Hastings 4N; N 40.6471, W -98.3835; 591 m elevation), demonstrated that the mean precipitation in May from 1894 to 2019 was 10.36±5.38 cm (range = 1.19 cm to 31.67 cm; NOAA 2019). Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded during breeding bird point count surveys conducted from 21 May to 15 July on Mormon Island in 2017 and 2019, both of which demonstrated above average May precipitation levels (16.03 cm and 20.60 cm respectively, NOAA 2019). However, they were not detected on Mormon Island during breeding bird surveys in 2015, 2016, or 2018, all of which recorded average or slightly below average May precipitation (Range = 8.99 to 10.90 cm; NOAA 2019). The Wilson's Phalarope migration peaks during the first half of May in southcentral Nebraska (Silcock and Jorgensen 2018). It is possible that wet conditions in May are associated with Wilson's Phalaropes "short stopping" to breed south of their core breeding range (Elmberg et al. 2014). Crane Trust long-term research staff has conducted 33-80 breeding season point count surveys per year across 62 sites from 2015 to 2019 (Crane Trust, unpublished data). With this relatively consistent effort it is probable that we would reliably detect Wilson's Phalaropes during the breeding season if they were present.

Hydroperiod, the timing and duration of surface water inundation, can vary widely across slough wetlands in the CPRV. Whiles and Goldowitz (2005) documented annual hydroperiods ranging from 158-365 days from April 1997 to April 1998 across four sites at Shoemaker and Mormon Islands. Hydroperiod also varies

widely within slough wetlands across years, with some sites ranging from zero to six months of annual inundation across only a three-year period (Meyer and Whiles 2008). Henszey and Wesche (1993) demonstrated that precipitation is likely the second most important factor driving wet meadow hydrology aside from river stage. Interestingly, from 2015 to 2019, aside from the spring of 2018, river discharge (cubic ft. per sec.) and river stage (ft.) were at or above median levels from mid or late-May to mid or late-June each year (USGS 2019). Sutton and Arcilla (2018) suggested that the Wilson's Phalaropes detected in 2017 depended upon overflow from an open above-ground cattle water tank because of a lack of naturally available surface water during late June of 2017. Despite the wet May of 2017, June 2017 was quite dry recording just 3.51 cm precipitation, well below the 10.03±5.87 cm average (range = 0.97 cm – 29.74 cm) recorded from between June 1894 and 2019 (NOAA 2019). In the CPRV open water habitat is available through the Wilson's Phalarope breeding season in some years, but not in others. This stochasticity and unpredictability may be why southcentral Nebraska, and particularly the CPRV, appears to only be an occasional breeding location for Wilson's Phalaropes, as the species depends upon the availability of shallow water for foraging during the breeding season (Colwell and Oring 1988a). Our observations suggest nesting was predominantly in wet meadows and near sloughs containing shallow or deep marsh habitat (For "deep marsh" see Kantrud et al. 1989).

Colwell and Oring (1988b) found relatively high numbers of nesting Wilson's Phalaropes from 1984 to 1987 at a 100 acre site actively grazed with 40 to 65 cattle throughout the growing season. Our observations also demonstrated that nesting occurred in recently and actively grazed pastures, suggesting this species may be relatively tolerant of moderate stocking rates during the breeding season. Our results also indicate that breeding may be more likely occur in the CPRV when conditions are wetter than average during the peak of the Wilson's Phalarope migration in May. To our knowledge this is the first detailed description of a Wilson's Phalarope nesting site in the CPRV.

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Table of Contents

Summer Field Report, June - July 2019
by W. Ross Silcock 74

2018 (30th) Report of the NOU Records Committee
by Mark A. Brogie 96

New Wilson's Phalarope Nesting Record from the Central Platte River Valley, Mormon Island, Hall County, Nebraska by Andrew J. Caven, Bethany Ostrom, Aurora Fowler, Joshua D. Wiese, Kelsey C. King 110

Subscription and Organization Information 115